

B.B.

March 30, 1927.

Mrs. Sherman Depew,
Three McKinley,
Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Dear Mrs. Depew:

I hope that you received the telegram that I sent you a week ago from Birmingham, Alabama. It was in answer to Mr. Booth's telegram telling me that you were willing to give me data on your father's life if I could use it in the work that I have on hand. Please believe me, I appreciate this offer very much and when I reach the point in the work for which I want data on Mr. Pingree's life you may be sure I shall not fail to come to you.

This is the situation of the book in question. It is a study of the industrial development of the United States in the years between 1860 and 1900 and is one volume in a series of twenty which Yale University is publishing under the head of the History of American Civilization. As they want the development of the country covered in something like 100,000 words, you can see my task is to select as wisely as I can representative characters and developments. I want to bring Detroit into my story and I had decided that the struggle there for municipal control of public utilities under your father's leadership would best cover that subject for the whole country. Of course it means, my dear Mrs. Depew, that I shall not have any great amount of space to devote to Mr. Pingree and his work, but in order to have what I use accurate and sufficient I must examine a large amount of material. It is my practice to look into everything that I can find on a subject, even if I get but a few paragraphs in the end. It is the only way to have the few paragraphs worth while. So, when I come to the Detroit point in my work, which will probably be some months from now, I shall be most grateful if you will either let me come to Detroit and look at your matter there, or, if you can come, as you suggest, to New York and bring the material here, I would be most glad to examine it.

Mrs. Sherman Depew

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My work is in such condition at the present moment it would be out of the question to give any time to study your date but if you should be in New York at any time I should be glad to call upon you and talk the subject over with you. Or if I should be called to Detroit perhaps you will let me talk to you there so I can get a general idea at least of the material in question.

I want you to know that I appreciate thoroughly your kindness in this matter. If I had been doing real work on the subject when I was in Detroit I should, of course, have looked up the family but what I wanted there was to see what already had been written and for that I went to the Public Library.

Thanking you again, my dear Mrs. Depew, I am,

Very sincerely,

IMT BAK.